

and it is essential that we utilize the skills and the talents of all of our people. In the handicapped people, we have a vast reservoir of untapped manpower which common sense and good judgment tell us should be used. We may conclude, then, that it is both humane and practical to employ persons with physical or other impairments. Men and women who remain unemployed because of handicaps not only contribute nothing to the general wealth of their country, but also become a needless burden upon the rest of society. If put to work, they produce goods and pay taxes like the rest of us. In helping the handicapped to help themselves, therefore, we are also helping ourselves.

Finally, may I repeat that I am pleased and honored to be here today. Again, my congratulations to you boys and girls who have won prizes with your essays and posters. I hope that your efforts will inspire many others to continue the good work in helping handicapped persons in Maryland to develop into useful, productive, happy citizens.

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## ADDRESS, MARYLAND NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

### BALTIMORE

July 11, 1963

It is a pleasure to be here again this year to enjoy the warm hospitality of my friends of the Maryland Nursing Home Association. May I begin by offering my commendation and expressing my appreciation to you for the valuable assistance you have given the State and its political subdivisions in the effort that is being made to improve the lot of the older men and women of Maryland.

We would all agree, I think, that one of the great unsolved problems of our age is what to do about our senior citizens — what steps we may take to provide them with adequate housing, medical care and recreational opportunities. President Kennedy, in a message to Congress last February, expressed what I believe to be the sentiment of the American people when he said:

“A proud and resourceful nation can no longer ask its older people to live in constant fear of a serious illness for which adequate funds are not available. We owe them the right to dignity in sickness as well as in health.”

The problem is one that challenges the imagination and the re-